AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph appearing on page 4, lines 9-15 with the following amended paragraph:

According to this technique, the decoding method is done step-by-step where each bit is decoded independently by a simple decoder working on hard decisions but where the output of the decoder *(i)* may make a correction on the bits at the input of the decoder *(i+1)*. ~~Figure 2~~ Figure 3 gives a block diagram of this type of decoder, where $m = 2$. Given $(r_1, r_2, ..., r_n)$ the block 31 of n symbols received at the input of the decoder, the decoding operation is performed in the following successive steps: